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6 p.m. news

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Announcer: ....In addition, the Senate [Intelligence] Committee has changed its mind about looking into the Warren Commission study of the assassination of President Kennedy 12 years ago. Robert Krulwich reports:

Krulwich: Today the Senate Intelligence Committee announced it will conduct a formal inquiry into the Warren Commission Report on President Kennedy's assassination. The announcement reverses the committee's position. Two weeks ago Chairman Frank Church said he didn't think there was enough evidence to warrant a new investigation; in any case, he said, it was beyond the scope of his committee's mandate. Today, Church apparently changed his mind. Two Senators will conduct the study: Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania and Gary Hart of Colorado. They will have their own staff, power to examine the still secret archives of the Warren Commission, power to subpoena witnesses and documents and to compel testimony. They will work in executive session and report back to the full committee some time before next March first. There will only be public hearings if the full committee votes to have them. Sen. Schweiker held a press conference today and said he will try to find out what the FBI and the CIA told the Warren Commission, and, what didn't they tell. He says he's looking for a pattern. The agencies, he said two weeks ago, did conceal and in one case destroy information that they ought to have given to the Warren Commission, and he hopes to figure out why -- were they trying to cover up their mistakes, or, their possible connections to Lee Harvey Oswald or Jack Ruby in the years and months before the assassination, or were they screening information in an effort to influence the commission to conclude that Oswald acted alone. There questions, and how well the agencies cooperated with each other, will be the focus of the investigation. Schweiker ssays that he and Sen. Hart will also review how the Warren Commission made its decisions to interview some people, not to interview others, but he said the sub-committee will not attempt to become a second Warren Commission.

And as to why chairman Frank Church and Sen. John Tower of TExas created the subcommittee after months of saying they wouldn't, Schweiker says that his own insistence and the revelation that the FBI destroyed a letter from Lee Harvey Oswald without telling anyone, including the Warren Commission, tipped the balance. And soas of this morning, the subcommittee is in business. For Pacifica Radio in Washington, this is Robert Krulwich reporting. [end item].

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No one else carried this out here. Is Pacifica off again ?